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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 51//

TO GOMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY/GENERAL SCOMCROFT

INFO DON RUNSFELD

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH58991

TOMAK 51

MAY 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

U.S. PRESENCE IN LAOS: THE EXODUS OF AMERICANS FROM LAOS CONTINUES. OUR EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE REPORTS THAT AS OF MAY 29, THERE WERE 101 OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN THE COUNTRY. APPROXIMATELY 111 OTHER AMERICANS REMAIN; THIS FIGURE MAY BE INFLATED, SINCE PERSONS WHO REGISTER WITH THE CONSULAR OFFICE DO NOT ALWAYS INFORM THAT OFFICE WHEN THEY ARE LEAVING.

FRENCH VIEWS ON INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE: PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS AT LEAST TWICE IN THE PAST WEEK RE-AFFIRMED HIS BELIEF THAT AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT CAN ONLY FOLLOW -- NOT PRECEDE -- WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNIFICATION. PREMATURE EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT A SEPARATE WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT WOULD, HE SAID, ACTUALLY DIMINISH THE POSSIBILITY HE NOW SEES FOR MOVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE. HE CITED THE NEGATIVE SOVIET REACTION AND THE PREFERENCE OF MANY WEST EUROPEANS FOR THE INTEGRATED NATO DEFENSE.

GISCARD IS ECHOING THE GAULLISTS. HE HAS APPARENTLY DROPPED THE IDEA, OFFERED NEAR THE END OF THE POMPIDOU ADMINI-

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SECFILE

DOS Review Completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

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STATION, THAT WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD SOON FIND A WAY TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN DEFENSE. GISCARD RECOGNIZES THAT THE IDEA IS NOT NOW ATTRACTIVE TO MOST EUROPEANS. HIS STATEMENT THAT POLITICAL ACTIONS SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY OVER MILITARY DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT GISCARD IS NOT PREPARED TO LOOK FOR SOME DEGREE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION IF HE CAN DO SO WITHOUT AROUSING THE GAULLISTS, THE FRENCH LEFT, OR THE SOVIETS.

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